

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2216
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2006
GAUGE CONVERSION AT PAMBAN BRIDGE
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the broad gauge conversion work at Pamban Bridge is presently going on;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the project;
- (c) whether there is also a proposal to construct a new bridge with foreign technology;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ;
- (e) whether the existing structures are also proposed to be changed to cope with the increasing load due to gauge conversion;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken for the early completion of broad gauge conversion of Pamban bridge?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (g): The work of modification/strengthening of the existing bridge has been taken up as part of Madurai-Rameshwaram gauge conversion project costing about Rs. 243 crore. The cost of strengthening/modification of Pamban bridge is Rs. 22.62 crore which involves replacing/respacing of existing girders & modification/strengthening of Navigational span. The work of conversion of this section from Mandapam to Rameshwaram alongwith the bridge is targeted for completion by 31.3.2007. The work is being monitored closely for timely completion.

There is no proposal to construct new bridge with foreign technology.